



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Louisiana Farm Reporter

Volume 10 Number 7

April 5, 2010



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Prospective Plantings for 2010
Grain & Rice Stocks: March 1, 2010
February Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Prospective Plantings For 2010

Planting intentions from our March 1 survey indicate that Louisiana cotton acreage will be the lowest on record. Planting intentions for rice, sorghum and sweet potatoes are up from 2009 and harvested acreage of hay is expected to increase.

The prospective planting intentions reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1. Actual acreage planted may increase or decrease based on what happens during the rest of the planting season.” NASS will conduct a June 1 survey to update planted acreage estimates and will release estimates from that survey on June 30, 2010.

Cotton growers intend to plant 200,000 acres, down 30,000 acres (13 percent) from a year ago.

Louisiana’s **corn** farmers expect to plant 530,000 acres, down 100,000 acres (16 percent) from a year ago.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 100,000 acres in the state, up 30,000 acres (43 percent) from 2009.

Louisiana’s **soybean** planted acreage is expected to decrease by 10,000 acres (one percent) from last year, to 1.01 million acres

Rice planted acreage in Louisiana is expected to increase to 510,000 acres, up 40,000 acres (nine percent) from last year. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 470,000 acres. Producers intend to plant 40,000 acres of medium grain varieties.

Sweet potato planted acreage in the state is expected to total 16,000 acres, up 2,000 acres (14 percent) from last year.

Winter wheat acreage seeded last fall is estimated at 150,000 acres, down 35,000 acres (19 percent) from seedings for the 2009 crop.

An estimated 440,000 acres of **hay** will be harvested, up 60,000 acres (16 percent) from last year.

The first 2010 estimate of **sugarcane** acreage for harvest will be available on June 30, 2010.

United States Prospective Plantings

All cotton plantings for 2010 are expected to total 10.5 million acres, 15 percent above last year. **Upland acreage** is expected to total 10.3 million acres, up 15 percent. Growers intend to increase planted area in all states except Arkansas, Kansas and Louisiana. The largest acreage increase is in Texas where producers intend to plant 600,000 acres more acres of upland cotton than in 2009. **American-Pima** cotton growers intend to increase their plantings by 34 percent from 2009 to 190,000 acres.

Corn growers intend to plant 88.8 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, up three percent from both last year and 2008. Expected acreage is up in many states due to reduced winter wheat acreage and expectations of improved net returns.

Sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes in 2010 is estimated at 6.4 million acres, down four percent from 2009. Producers in Kansas intend to plant 2.7 million acres, unchanged from last year.

Soybeans growers intend to plant an estimated 78.1 million acres in 2010, up less than one percent from last year. If realized, the United States planted area will be the largest on record.

Rice area planted to rice in 2010 is expected to total 3.4 million acres, up nine percent from 2009. Acreage in all rice-producing states is expected to increase from the previous year, mainly due to the higher price of rice compared to other commodities such as corn and soybeans. Growers in Arkansas, the largest rice-producing state, intend to plant 1.6 million acres, up ten percent from last year.

Sweet Potatoes planted area of sweet potatoes is expected to total 117,100 acres for the 2010 season, up seven percent from last year and 13 percent above 2008. The largest increases are expected in California, Louisiana and North Carolina.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 53.8 million acres, down nine percent from 2009. The 2010 winter wheat planted area, at 37.7 million acres, is down 13 percent from the 43.3 million acres planted for the 2009 crop.

Hay producers expect to harvest 60.5 million acres of all hay in 2010, up one percent from 2009. Harvested area is expected to increase from last year throughout most of the Southern Great Plains, Southwest and Coastal Plains. The largest increases in acreage harvested are expected in Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin.

Prospective Plantings: Louisiana and United States, March 1, 2010, with 2009 Comparisons

Crop	Louisiana			United States		
	2009	2010	% Change	2009	2010	% Change
	-----Thousand Acres-----			-----Thousand Acres-----		
Corn	630	530	-16	86,482	88,798	+3
All Cotton	230	200	-13	9,149.2	10,505.0	+15
All Rice	470	510	+9	3,135	3,411	+9
Sorghum	70	100	+43	6,633	6,360	-4
Soybeans	1,020	1,010	-1	77,451	78,098	+1
Sweet potatoes	14	16	+14	109.6	117.1	+7
All Wheat	185	150	-19	59,133	53,827	-9
Hay ¹	380	440	+16	59,755	60,460	+1

¹ Harvesting intentions.

Louisiana Grain Stocks

Corn stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2010 at 25.7 million bushels, were down 13 percent from last year's 29.6 million bushels.

Sorghum stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2010 at 2.2 million bushels, were down 35 percent from last year's 3.3 million bushels.

Soybeans stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2010 at 9.9 million bushels, were up 60 percent from last year's 6.2 million bushels.

Louisiana and U.S. Grain Stocks, March 1, 2009 - 2010

Item	Louisiana ¹		United States	
	March 1		March 1	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	-----Thousand Bushels-----		-----Thousand Bushels-----	
Corn				
On-Farm			4,085,000	4,548,000
Off-Farm ²	<u>29,619</u>	<u>25,667</u>	<u>2,869,145</u>	<u>3,145,940</u>
Total			6,954,145	7,693,940
Sorghum				
On-Farm			32,200	23,680
Off-Farm ²	<u>3,289</u>	<u>2,154</u>	<u>173,650</u>	<u>151,581</u>
Total			205,850	175,261
Soybeans				
On-Farm			656,500	609,200
Off-Farm ²	<u>6,197</u>	<u>9,942</u>	<u>645,289</u>	<u>660,806</u>
Total			1,301,789	1,270,006
All-Wheat				
On-Farm			280,400	348,200
Off-Farm ²	<u>6,399</u>	<u>7,733</u>	<u>759,664</u>	<u>1,004,133</u>
Total			1,040,064	1,352,333

¹ Louisiana on farm stocks and total stocks not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

All wheat stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2010 at 7.7 million bushels, were up 21 percent from last year's 6.4 million bushels.

Louisiana Rice Stocks

Date	On Farm	Off Farm ¹	Total All Positions
	(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)		
	Rough Rice		
March 1, 2009	2,350	4,820	7,170
August 1, 2009	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	954
December 1, 2009	7,100	6,064	13,164
March 1, 2010	1,650	3,726	5,376

United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farm	Off Farm Farm	Total All Positions
	(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)		
	Rough Rice		
March 1, 2009	1,650	3,726	5,376
August 1, 2009	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	954
December 1, 2009	9,000	7,900	16,900
March 1, 2010	4,550	5,391	9,941
Date	Milled Rice		
	March 1, 2009	---	4,732
	August 1, 2009	---	4,077
	December 1, 2009	---	5,679
	March 1, 2010	---	4,895

¹ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, ports and in transit.

² Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Louisiana Rice Stocks

Rough rice stocks in all positions on March 1, 2010, totaled 9.9 million cwt, up 85 percent from the total on March 1, 2009.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	January	February		January – February		February		January – February	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	----- Number, thousand head -----					----- Number, thousand head -----			
Cattle	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.8	2,528.5	2,547.6	5,246.2	5,254.9
Calves	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.9	74.1	74.0	158.7	156.8
Hogs	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.9	2.0	8,918.9	8,691.2	18,846.2	17,600.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	179.5	178.4	368.7	365.0
	----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----					----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----			
Cattle	286	473	355	894	641	3,300,790	3,261,015	6,838,372	6,741,620
Calves	256	164	241	337	497	18,728	18,040	39,191	37,514
Hogs	161	201	217	379	378	2,420,596	2,347,274	5,117,587	4,763,409
Sheep & Lambs	16	23	24	34	40	25,403	24,794	52,065	50,499
	----- Average live weight, pounds -----					----- Average live weight, pounds -----			
Cattle	733	769	800	745	801	1,310	1,285	1,308	1,287
Calves	536	517	542	562	552	257	247	251	243
Hogs	190	211	188	199	189	272	270	272	271
Sheep & Lambs	66	77	88	68	80	142	139	141	139
	----- Million pounds -----					----- Million pounds -----			
Red Meat	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.9	3,827.0	3,736.1	7,996.7	7,653.7

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during February totaled 500,000 pounds, up 25 percent from the previous month but unchanged from the previous year.

There were 400 head of **cattle** slaughtered during February, unchanged from January but down 200 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 800 pounds, up 67 pounds from the previous month and 31 pounds above February 2009. Total live weight, at 355,000 pounds, was 24 percent above the previous month but 25 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during February totaled 400 head, down 100 head from January but up 100 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 542 pounds, up six pounds from January and 25 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 241,000 pounds, was down six percent from January but 47 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during February totaled 1,200 head, up 400 head from the previous month and 300 head above February 2009. Average live weight was 188 pounds, down two pounds from January and 23 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 217,000 pounds, up 35 percent from January and eight percent above the previous year.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during February was 300 head, up 100 head from the previous month but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 88 pounds, up 22 pounds from the previous month and 11 pounds above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.7 billion pounds in February, down two percent from the 3.8 billion pounds produced in February 2009.

February 2010 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. **February 2009** contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.0 billion pounds, was two percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.6 million head, up one percent from February 2009. The average live weight was down 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.7 million pounds, two percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,000 head, down slightly from February 2009. The average live weight was down ten pounds from last year, at 247 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.8 billion pounds, down three percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.7 million head, down three percent from February 2009. The average live weight was down two pounds from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.3 million pounds, was down three percent from February 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 178,400 head, one percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down three pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2010 commercial red meat production was 7.7 billion pounds, down four percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was down two percent from last year, veal was down three percent, pork was down seven percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down three percent.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	March	February	March	March	February	March
	2009	2010	2010 ¹	2009	2010	2010 ¹
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Sorghum, per cwt	n/a	2/	2/	5.37	5.44	5.34
Soybeans, per bushel	9.12	9.44	8.88	9.12	9.41	9.16
Rice, per cwt	13.20	14.00	13.60	15.60	14.40	14.60
Upland Cotton, per pound	.435	.610	.632 ³	.404	.650	.639 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	129.00	107.00	108.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	54.10	61.10	62.70	79.10	85.50	88.80
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	81.70	89.30	95.00	84.00	90.50	93.90
Cows, per cwt ⁵	43.40	50.20	50.20	44.40	51.60	52.40
Calves, per cwt	91.20	98.80	107.00	106.00	112.00	113.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.450	.470	.490
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.816	.917	1.160
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.80	15.90	15.10

¹Mid-month.

²Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴“Cows” and “steers and heifers” combined.

⁵Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
n/a = not available.

Prices Received Index Up Six Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 141 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased six points from February. The Crop Index was up eight points and the Livestock Index increased five points. Producers received higher prices for onions, lettuce, eggs and cattle and lower prices for milk, corn, soybeans and apples. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, broilers and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 15 points from March 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 143, increased ten points from last month and increased 21 points from March 2009.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 184 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index was unchanged from February but is four points above March 2009. Lower prices in March for complete feeds, LP gas, herbicides and supplements offset higher prices for potash & phosphate, diesel, nitrogen and feeder cattle.

Louisiana Farm Reporter (USPS-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Postmaster: send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038

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